

What is claimed is:

1. A vehicle chassis comprising:

first and second longitudinal frame rails, each frame rail having an outwardly oriented side;

first and second rail side brackets mounted with respect to the outwardly oriented sides of the first and second frame rails, each rail side bracket comprising a pair of parallel guide arms extending away from the outwardly oriented side;

a module including an elongated carrier for mounting latitudinally across upper surfaces of the first and second frame rails; and

four mounting tabs fixed with respect to the elongated carrier and extending downwardly from the module with each mounting tab having a different, corresponding alignment arm, the four mounting tabs being spaced to straddle the frame rails to the outside and the alignment arms to the outside with each mounting tab cooperating with its corresponding alignment arm to locate the module longitudinally with respect to the vehicle chassis.

2. A vehicle chassis as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

the four mounting tabs each further including an angled, non-vertical interior alignment edge for cooperating with the outwardly oriented side of an adjacent frame rail to locate the module latitudinally with respect to the vehicle chassis.

3. A vehicle chassis as set forth in claim 2, further comprising:

each side rail bracket including a raised rear edge extending above its respective frame rail for providing a support to the carrier for locating the module vertically.

4. A vehicle chassis as set forth in claim 3, wherein side to side mounting tab pairs are disposed in planes, with the alignment edges of each pair slanted inwardly toward one another from bottom to top.

5. A vehicle chassis as set forth in claim 4, wherein front to back mounting tab pairs each have a leading edge cam section, which open away from one another downwardly.
6. A vehicle chassis as set forth in claim 5, wherein the side rail brackets are C-channel brackets mounted to the respective outwardly oriented side and opening outwardly away from the frame rails.
7. A vehicle chassis as set forth in claim 6, further comprising:

fasteners connecting each alignment arm to its corresponding mounting tab.
8. A vehicle chassis as set forth in claim 7, the module further comprising:

a fuel tank sub-assembly.
9. A vehicle sub-assembly for mounting on a pair of positionally fixed side rail mounting brackets with the side rail mounting brackets having first and second, outwardly disposed, fore and aft mounting arms, the vehicle sub-assembly comprising:

a carrier adapted to rest on an upper edge the side rail mounting brackets;

first, second, third and fourth mounting tabs descending from the carrier, each mounting tab corresponding to a different mounting arm;

each mounting tab having a downwardly opening leading cam section for cooperating with the mounting arm it is in correspondence with to provide fore to aft alignment.
10. A vehicle sub-assembly as set forth in claim 9, further comprising:

each mounting tab having an alignment edge for contacting a rail and providing side-to-side alignment.
11. A method for mounting a module across a pair of frame rails of a motor vehicle chassis, the method comprising the steps of:

mounting a pair of side rail brackets longitudinally aligned on one another on outside faces of the frame rails, each of the side rail brackets having a horizontal back edge extending above a top face of its respective frame rail and two alignment arms extending outwardly from the frame rail and perpendicular thereto;

providing four mounting tabs on the module, each mounting tab extending downwardly from the module in a usual orientation of the module, the mounting tabs being disposed at the four corners of a rectangle with each mounting tab having a lead cam section and an alignment edge;

lowering the module onto the pair of frame rails in an orientation bringing each of the four mounting tabs into proximity to a different one of the alignment arms, with the alignment edges guiding side to side positioning of the module by interaction against the frame rails and the lead cam sections guiding positioning of the module fore to aft by contact with the alignment arms; and

resting the module on the horizontal back edge of the side rail bracket to complete alignment of the alignment arms and the mounting tabs.

12. A method for mounting a module as set forth in claim 11, further comprising the step of: attaching the mounting tabs and side rail brackets using conventional fastening means.

13. A method for mounting a module as set forth in claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

assembling the module prior to installation on the vehicle chassis from a carrier and a fuel tank.